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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: TANAKA, Masahito et al

INT'L. APPLN. NO.: PCT/JP97/03816

SERIAL NO.: NEW

GROUP:

FILED: March 23, 1999

EXAMINER:

FOR: ABSORBENT ARTICLE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 23, 1999

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted  
in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A  
Before line 1, insert [This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371  
of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP97/03816 which has an International filing  
date of October 22, 1997 which designated the United States of America]

IN THE CLAIMS:

**CLAIM 7:** Line 1, delete "or 6"